

Dogs in Parks Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Dogs in Parks Subcommittee of the City of Mesa Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting at the Parks and Recreation office at 200 S. Center Street, Building 1, Mesa, on February 25, 2010.

Members Present:

Milt Fort
Connie Gullatt-Whiteman
Ron Wills

Members Absent:

Frank Alger (excused)

Staff Present:

Jessie Brodersen
Dawn Bies
Dale Furnas
Marc Heirshberg
Mike Holste
Lily King-Cisneros
Andrea Moore

Welcome and introductions

Connie Gullatt-Whiteman, acting as chair in place of Frank Alger, called the meeting to order at 3:39 p.m. She asked all attendees to introduce themselves. Marc Heirshberg, the new PRCF Director, was introduced to the subcommittee members.

Public Comments

None

Discuss and make recommendation regarding Dogs in Parks feasibility meeting results

Dale Furnas said that a subcommittee had been formed to research the issue and to look into the impact of allowing on-leash dogs in Mesa parks. She gave the subcommittee a brief timeline of the Dogs in Parks subcommittee regarding the issue of dogs in Mesa parks.

Andrea Moore told the subcommittee that the issue of off-leash dogs had come up a lot recently in regards to the basin at 8th Street and Harris. She said recently a neighbor had been complaining about off-leash dogs in the basin and that this would be discussed at the Parks Board meeting in March.

Ms. Moore told the subcommittee that she had attended a neighborhood meeting with the residents from the Palo Verde Park neighborhood on February 24th and that the majority of the residents surrounding the park were interested in establishing an off-leash dog park at Palo Verde Park. She added that this may also come up at the Parks Board meeting.

Jessie Brodersen from the Public Information Office (PIO) went over a draft proposal of the educational campaign to be shared with the Parks Board on March 10, 2010. She outlined the main objectives, key messages, strengths and weaknesses, communication strategies to be used, and Adopt-a-Park opportunities that would be available at citywide events (City Hall at the Mall, Building Strong Neighborhoods, etc.).

Ms. Brodersen said there were lots of sponsorship opportunities available for residents such as signs in parks, additional bags in parks, signage in business/buildings residents frequent.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman asked about getting a list of pet owners from the county in order to send out information regarding the PIO citizen education campaign.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman suggested coordinating efforts with other cities to get the word out regarding responsible dog ownership. Ms. Brodersen said she would address it at an upcoming citywide PIO meeting.

Milt Fort made a motion to approve the action plan and the PIO citizen education campaign regarding allowing leashed dogs in parks and to forward them to the Parks Board for consideration. Ron Wills seconded and it was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRP
PRCF Department Director